

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants thank the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of the Claims

Claims 1-23 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of this reply. New claims 24-38 are added. As such, claims 24-38 are currently pending.

Information Disclosure Statement

Regarding the information disclosure statement submitted on September 10, 2009, legible copies of cite number 30 (European Office Action mailed on February 4, 2008, for EP Application No. 05743357.5 filed on May 23, 2005) and cite number 32 (European Office Action mailed on February 4, 2008, for EP Application No. 05743591.9 filed on May 23, 2005) are enclosed herein. Consideration of these documents is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-23 have been canceled as mentioned above, rendering the rejections of these claims moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 112 rejections of claims 1-23 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8-16, and 19-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0073375 ("Hollander") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,970,814 ("Ashley"). Claims 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollander and Ashley in further view of National Instruments ("Matrix Switch Expansion Guide"). Claims 17 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hollander and Ashley in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,181,201 ("Schauss"). Claims 1-23 have been canceled as mentioned above, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections of claims 1-23 is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims

Claims 24-38 have been newly added by way of this reply. Support for the features of these claims can be found throughout the specification as originally filed, for example, in Fig. 2 and paragraphs [0017], [0033], [0062], [0094]-[0116], and [0768]-[0791]. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 03-1952 referencing Docket No. 333772000800. However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,



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